

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 AGRE-00 /090 W

----- 103799

R 261614Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4712

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 7696

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE 10 PARA 4 SLD READ ON OCTOBER  
23 VICE OCTOBER 22)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PL, UR

SUBJECT: POLISH LEADERSHIP TAKES ACTION TO PLACATE THE PEOPLE

REF: MOSCOW 16710

1. SUMMARY. THE POLISH LEADERSHIP IS FINALLY MAKING A CO-  
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ORDINATED EFFORT TO MEET AND MASTER THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL  
CRISIS GROWING OUT OF THE JUNE 24-25 PRICE-RISE DISTURBANCES.  
THE GAME PLAN CALLS FOR GREATER MARKET SUPPLIES, FOOD AND  
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE SOVIETS, OFFICIAL PROTESTATIONS

OF GOOD INTENTIONS, AND A PLEA FOR PUBLIC PATIENCE AND CONFIDENCE IN THE REGIME. END SUMMARY.

2. THE POLISH PRESS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 23 GREATER IMPORTS OF A FULL RANGE OF CONSUMER GOODS DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1976. AT THE TOP OF THE LIST IS A \$38-MILLION PURCHASE OF QA 32,000 METRIC TONS OF MEAT AND 10,000 TONS OF LARD. ALSO INCLUDED ARE TWO THOUSAND TONS OF FROZEN FISH AND 267,000 REFRIGERATORS FROM THE SOVIET UNION, LEATHER COATS FROM YUGOSLAVIA, CLOTH FROM ITALY, LADIES' SHOES FROM IRAN, BLUE JEANS FROM THE FRG, SKI EQUIPMENT FROM AUSTRIA, AND BICYCLES, MOTORCYCLES, ELECGRIC RAZORS, SWISS WATCHES, AND CAMERA EQUIPMENT, AMONG OTHERS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAUTIONED THAT CONTINUED SUCCESSFUL SUPPLY OF THE MARKET WITH IMPORTS DEPENDS UPON POLISH EXPORT PERFORMANCE.

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE INCREASED IMPORTS WAS MADE CLEAR BY SECRETARY GIEREK AT THIS QUARTERLY PRESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 20. AS REPORTED IN TRYBUNA LUDU ON OCTOBER 25, GIEREK EMPHASIZED THAT THE LACK OF ATTRACTIVE CONSUMER PRODUCTS EXACERBATED THE DIFFICULT FOOD SITUATION. IN ADDITION TO A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS, GIEREK SPOKE IN FAVOR OF A GREATER, MORE CRITICAL ROLE FOR THE PRESS DURING THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD. HE IS QUOTED AS ADVISING REPORTERS TO "TAKE THOSE ISSUES WHICH AFFECT PEOPLE MOST ACUTELY." HE EMPHASIZED THE "UNUSUALLY IMPORTANT SOCIAL PROBLEMS" OF RELATIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY BETWEEN THE "OFFICE" AND THE "CITIZEN." THE PARTY FIRST SECRETARY SAID, "WE ARE RECEIVING MANY SIGNALS THAT THE SITUATION ISN'T THE BEST." HE SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZED FAVORITISM, BRIBERY, AND PROFLIGATE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS BY THE BUREAUCRACY, AS WELL AS SIMILAR MANIFESTATIONS IN SOCIETY AS A WHOLE, SUCH AS HOARDING.

4. THE OCTOBER 23-24 EDITION OF TRYBUNA LUFU REPORTED TALKS BETWEEN SOVIET VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NIKOLAY RODIONOV AND POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER OLSZOWSKI IN WARSAW  
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OCTOBER 21-22. FOLLOWING THE TALKS, THE ARTICLE REPORTS GIEREK AND JAROSZEWICZ RECEIVED THE VISITORS. THE NEWSPAPER ALSO REPORTED THE OCTOBER 22 JAROSZEWICZ-KOSYGIN MEETING IN MOSCOW, AT WHICH PROBLEMS OF THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF THE VARIOUS TIES BETWEEN THE PPR AND THE USSR WERE DISCUSSED IN A "SINCERE, PARTY ATMOSPHERE," ON OCTOBER 23, JAROSZEWICZ, BACK IN WARSAW, RECEIVED THE FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOVIET STATE PLANNING COMMISSION, GEORGIY TITOV, AND THE VICE MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE, COLONEL-GENERAL NIKOLAY ALEKSEYEV, FOR DISCUSSION OF CERTAIN PROBLEMS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE TALKS WERE HELD IN A "SINCERE" ATMOSPHERE.

5. COMMENT. THIS SEQUENCE OF EVENTS SEEMS TO SIGNAL THE POLISH LEADERSHIP'S READINESS, AT LONG LAST, TO TRY TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE MALAISE WHICH HAS PLAGUED THE COUNTRY SINCE THE JUNE DISTURBANCES. JAROSZEWICZ APPEARS TO BE AN ACTIVE LIEUTENANT, USING THIS GOOD STANDING WITH THE SOVIETS TO SECURE THEIR ASSISTANCE AND APPROVAL FOR THE POLISH STRATEGY OF DEALING WITH THE CRISIS. AMONG THE BILATERAL SUBJECTS PROBABLY DISCUSSED IN MOSCOW WERE INCREASED SOVIET GRAIN EXPORTS AND DECREASED EXPORTS OF POLISH MEAT TO THE USSR. IF THE SOVIETS AGREE TO SUCH MEASURES, THEY WOULD PRESUMABLY ONLY BE ANNOUNCED WHEN GIEREK VISITS MOSCOW. ONE WESTERN DIPLOMATIC SOURCE IN WARSAW HAS TOLD US ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT THIS WILL TAKE PLACE NOVEMBER 9-10.

6. THE MANNER IN WHICH THE OCTOBER 20 PRESS CONFERENCE WAS PRESENTED TO THE POLISH PEOPLE SUGGESTS THAT THE LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO WANT TO APPROACH ITS PROBLEMS OPENLY. THE INCLINATION TO SEEK SCAPEGOATS, WHICH HAS APPEARED SPORADICALLY SINCE JUNE, APPARENTLY HAS BEEN SUDDED ONCE AGAIN.

7. WHILE THE POLISH AUTHORITIES ARE TRYING TO EXPAND MARKET SUPPLIES WHEREVER POSSIBLE, THEY ARE ALSO CONTINUING TO WARN ALL THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO LISTEN THAT HARD TIMES ARE TO BE EXPECTED. IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, GIEREK SAID, "WE WILL BE HARD PUT TO IT, EVEN WITH IMPORTS, TO INSURE SUPPLIES OF MEAT AND MEAT-PRODUCTS AT A LEVEL APPROACHING CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT OF LAST YEAR." END COMMENT.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: WE ARE INTRIGUED BY THE FACT THAT, IN THE TRYBUNA LUDU ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MEETING BETWEEN OLSZOWSKI AND RODIONOV, THE RECEPTION OF THE SOVIET OFFICIALS BY GIEREK AND JAROSZEWICZ IS REPORTED TOWARDS THE END. NORMALLY, GIEREK'S APPOINTMENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED SEPARATELY. EVEN WHEN BOTH HE AND JAROSZEWICZ HAVE RECEIVED CALLERS, THIS HAS BEEN REPORTED SEPARATELY. PERHAPS RODIONOV'S LOW STATUS LED TO THE PRESENT FORM OF REPORTING. DOES THE DEPARTMENT KNOW OF A PRECEDENT FOR THIS TYPE OF PRESS HANDLING? WE CANNOT REMEMBER ANYTHING SIMILAR IN RECENT MONTHS. PLEASE ADVISE.  
DAVIES

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BERLIN  
BUCHAREST  
BUDAPEST  
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